



**INDUSTRIAL WORKERS
OF THE WORLD**

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★ EDUCATION ★ ORGANIZATION ★ EMANCIPATION

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Irish Workers Strike Apartheid

In July of 1984, Mary Manning, a checkout clerk at Dunnes stores in Dublin, was suspended without pay for refusing to handle goods produced in South Africa. On July 19th her 12 co-workers went on strike in her support, in keeping with the anti-apartheid position of their Irish Distributive and Administrative Trade Union. On August 2nd the strikers were given an ultimatum to return to work or be fired. On August 14th Manning was knocked down by a scab-driven vehicle while picketing. Gardai (police) seized money donated to the strike fund.

Throughout September and October, both the support and the harassment continued. In mid-September large numbers of people from the Anti-Apartheid Movement began joining the picket line. On October 13th Tommy Davis, the only male striker, was attacked by the gardai, which resulted in his being hospitalized and charged with "behavior likely to cause a breach of the peace" and "resisting arrest". On October 23rd Zola Zembe, Western European co-ordinator of the South African Congress of Trade Unions, visited the picket line on a tour of Ireland to strengthen the boycott of South African goods. Strike supporters began holding mass pickets every Saturday afternoon, encouraged by the announcement of another local food store that it was withdrawing South African fruit from its shelves because of protests from customers and employees.

In mid-October the workers at Dunnes stores in Wexford began a sit-in in protest against the management's refusal to pay the Christmas bonus recommended by the Labour Court. (Dunnes seems to have a real flair for PR and employee relations, particularly since its Waterford store had been the target of a sit-in early in July by employees protesting the summary dismissal of workers attending a mandatory union meeting.)

In November the Dunnes workers got additional support. The Dublin Sinn Fein instructed all its members to boycott all branches of Dunnes stores until the disputes were settled, and began soliciting donations for the strikers. The dockworkers' union agreed to refuse to handle all shipments of South African produce for Dunnes stores coming through the port of Dublin.

The most recent issue of *Black Flag* reports that Dublin workers are now refusing to handle goods destined for Dunnes stores, declaring that no Dunnes goods will leave the docks till the strike is settled. And one store, the T and J, has even placed a notice in its front windows advising customers that no South African goods will be stocked until apartheid is abolished.

In early December two strikers from Dunnes of Dublin—Mary Manning and shop steward Karen Gearson—went to London to meet with South African bishop and human-rights activist Desmond Tutu. As the Christmas rush approached, about 20 members of Sinn Fein staged a shop-in at the Dublin Dunnes stores, loading shopping carts full of South African fruit and other groceries, taking them to the checkout stands, and abandoning them after the prices had been rung up. Meanwhile, at Wexford, 400 trade-unionists staged a march in support of the 50 workers then in their second month of occupation of the Dunnes stores.

[As of press time, the *Industrial Worker* had no further news of the strike in solidarity with the workers of South Africa, but we would like to point out that it was held in the face of the 26 Counties' 16.6% unemployment rate. Shop and plant occupations are fairly common in Southern Ireland, particularly by workers demanding improved redundancy (severance) pay.]

FIGHTING INFLATION

GENERAL STRIKE IN BOLIVIA

Workers demanding payment of back wages took 190 business executives and technicians hostage at 34 factories January 16th in La Paz, Bolivia. After the Board of Industries decreed a lockout at all of the city's 600 factories and threatened to shut down industry in the rest of the country, the executives were freed January 19th. But 50,000 factory workers proceeded to call a nationwide general strike, demanding a 200% pay hike to keep up with inflation. The general strike began January 21st, and no details were available at press time.



©Dunnes Stores, Henry Street, Dublin

Editorial: UAW Split Shows Need for Real Solidarity

At a time when international labor solidarity is essential to counter the power of transnational corporations, the Canadian section of the United Auto Workers' Union has broken away from the US-based International. Citing interference in the bargaining process and the International's power to veto strike votes and control strike benefits, the Canadians were demanding greater autonomy in these areas. When the UAW's International Executive Board voted 24 to 1 against their demands, the Canadians decided to go their own way.

In rejecting the Canadian UAW's demands for autonomy, the IEB declared that "the cause of working people transcends national boundaries". True enough; but one suspects that it was the *nationalism* of the US leadership rather than the preservation of the UAW's "internationalism" that motivated the Board's decision. Since the Chrysler bail-out in 1979, the UAW has been pursuing a policy of concessionary bargaining and protectionist lobbying in search of an elusive job security for its US membership. The Canadians have refused to go along and have struck, both in 1982 and in 1984, winning slightly better deals than their US counterparts in spite of pressures put on them by the UAW International to settle for less.

Undoubtedly, fear of the relatively greater militancy of the Canadians "infecting" their US membership played a role in the International's decision to reject autonomy and accept a split. With the more militant Canadians gone the US UAW leadership will have greater leeway in its pursuit of greater co-operation with the auto companies in their mutual bid to restore the US auto industry's competitiveness in the world market—a competitiveness which will no doubt benefit the industry's owners and top managers and the UAW's top leaders, but will be bought with the further destruction of auto workers' livelihoods.

The Canadians' militancy can now be painted as a potential threat rather than as something to be emulated (during the 13-week strike against GM last year, 40,000 US auto workers were laid off due to parts shortages caused by the loss of Canadian production) and "reasonableness" can be extolled as the best policy.

On the Canadian side, while the desire for greater autonomy is no doubt justified, one has to wonder to what extent the personal ambitions of Canadian UAW director Robert White figured in that body's decision to split from the International. It is known that White

hopes to use an independent Canadian UAW as a base from which to build a larger Canadian Metal Workers Federation. Such an organization would be a powerful force in Canadian life.

Not a bad thing, if controlled by the rank and file. But one of the striking aspects of this whole controversy has been the silence of the rank and file, on both sides of the border. Is White's dissatisfaction with the interference of the International a measure of the feelings of Canadian auto workers, or more a reflection of his own desire to play a bigger role in the Canadian labor movement? To an outsider this whole process looks like another intrabureaucratic struggle in which the rank and file are mere spectators.

But the rank and file cannot afford to remain on the sidelines. Now that the official ties have been cut by the bureaucrats, it is even more important for the ranks to come up with ways to develop a real solidarity based on direct contacts between workers in the plants. This solidarity will become essential in the not-too-distant future, as US-based auto companies will be looking for alternative sources for the essential parts produced in Canada. With the Canadian auto workers freed from the discipline of the International, a discipline which the companies have counted on as a stabilizing force in the industry, the companies will feel more vulnerable to the type of disruption of production caused during the above-mentioned GM strike.

Workers on both sides of the border have to recognize the peculiar economic, social, and cultural conditions under which they have to work, and respect the autonomous decision-making power such conditions require. At the same time, they must also recognize that there are larger interests, whether of a particular section of workers or of the working class as a whole, that have to be taken into consideration; and that when these interests are threatened it is necessary to act on the principle that "An injury to one is an injury to all."

Unity and autonomy should not be counterposed, as they have been by the UAW bureaucracy. On the contrary, they need to be creatively combined by a conscious and awakened working class. This is something the IWW has been promoting from the day it was born, and a proposition that Canadian and US auto workers, along with all the rest of the world's workers, need to consider.

Mike Hargis



You can find some interesting tidbits by scanning the various exchange publications that make their way to these editorial offices. We have been hearing a lot about computers, telecommunications, and other such goodies. We also know that such machinery benefits only those who own it.

Through advances in computer technology, it is now possible to monitor thousands of phone conversations at the same time, to be recorded and reviewed individually. These eavesdropping computers can be programmed to pick up certain "buzz words" and key phrases, such as people's names, addresses, and phone numbers, that can be routed to flesh-and-blood eavesdroppers or recorded for future reference.

It is a matter of record that a federal appeals court ruled in 1983 that security agents can lawfully intercept conversations between people in Freedomland and other countries. In spite of all the assurances that George Orwell's version of 1984 never came to pass, the aforementioned little tidbit is chilling evidence of the accuracy of his prognostications. Big Brother is in our midst, and has gotten there without announcing his arrival. Big Brother has sense enough to know that vaseline is far more diplomatic than a corn cob.

A new "documentary" called *The Good Fight* has come out about the 3200 Americans who joined the Abraham Lincoln Brigade back in 1936 to help the Spanish people fight the Franco takeover. The Brigade was organized by the Communist Party, but while many of those who volunteered were Party members or sympathizers, many others were motivated only by the desire to get in some early licks at the growing menace of Fascism. I remember one former editor of this paper who had volunteered to serve with the Lincoln Brigade, but when the war became official told his draft board what they could do with their summons. He did a two-year stretch at the same government rest home your scribe sojourned at.

Veteran readers of this paper have been well apprised of the role of Russia and the CP in the Franco takeover, but none of this is ever dealt with in this movie. Of course this film is about the veterans of the Lincoln Brigade, and those who made it were not even on the job at the time of the Fascist revolt in Spain. However in the actual documentary footage that was taken during the conflict, certain things are inescapable. For example, a large truck transporting munitions has the banner of the CNT-FAI prominently displayed on it. While the big battle for Madrid was going on, the Brigade was receiving supplies from Barcelona, which was under the virtual control of the Syndicalists and Anarchists. Not only that but the workers in Barcelona were taking in refugees, especially children from the Madrid front, as well as supplying their own troops on the various fronts in Spain.

Despite the machinations of the Soviet Union and its underlings at that time, no one can question the sincerity of those ordinary Stateside working stiffs who went over to another land to fight Fascism long before it was officially considered a menace by the politicians here. It is a picture worth seeing, and readers of this paper are advised to take the opportunity when viewing this film to point out to their fellow viewers whenever a CNT-FAI banner appears on the screen, to give them a little more historical insight into that tragic struggle.

I remember the remark of a friend some years back, on learning that the Government of Spain before Franco was not communist but a coalition of many ideological viewpoints, that this was a good example of the rewriting of history that Orwell wrote about.

You may recall that that was the reason why some years back so much of our withholding taxes was going to support Franco, because he saved Spain from the clutches of godless communism and was a stalwart bulwark against the Iron Curtain. But what we weren't told was that Spain's biggest trade was with the countries of the Eastern Bloc.

Our cowboy in the not-so-white house waxes indignant over the lack of human rights in Cuba and Nicaragua while sending off our hard-earned tax money to support the butchers in El Salvador, the Philippines, and South Africa. Talk about speaking with a forked tongue.

It seems politicians are getting more blatant every day, but it is the late unlamented Adolf Hitler who is reputed to have said that if you tell a lie often enough, it will eventually be believed. If folks can be made to believe that a man can stay inside a whale for days without being digested, or that a virgin can give birth to a child, they have been well-conditioned to believe in their politicians.

Draftees of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your generals!

C. C. Redcloud

Around Our Union

CHICAGO: Chicago Wobs distributed more than 600 leaflets calling for a boycott of Coca-Cola, in solidarity with Coke workers in Guatemala City, within a week of the leaflet's publication. The Branch is currently directing its efforts at Central American solidarity activists and unionists, in hope of bringing together sufficient numbers to mount a major boycott campaign. Chicago Wobs have also been seen on picket lines at the South African Consulate and the Danly Corporation, and have met with a local group working to organize a commemoration of the Haymarket Centennial in 1986.

DAYTON, OHIO: Local Wobs continue to be active in the boycott against Coors beer. Highlighting recent efforts was Fellow Worker Corey Slavitt's appearance on radio station WYSO's public-information show "Currents" December 20th. Her interview provided an excellent introduction and overview of the boycott's history, as well as the Dayton IWW Group's tactics against Coors.

On December 30th, Dayton Wobs hosted a beer party also attended by fellow workers from Louisville, Kentucky and Richmond, Indiana. The Dayton Group is currently engaged in efforts to open a Greater Miami Valley IWW hall in Clifton, Ohio this year. The Group has recently made donations to Phelps-Dodge strikers, the International Miners' Appeal for striking British coal miners, and the IWW's Keller Strike Fund.

NEW YORK: New York Wobs co-sponsored a benefit to raise funds for the striking British miners and their families with the local Miners Support Group and the H-Block/Armagh Committee January 13th. The program featured talks by long-time IWW activist Sam Dolgoff and by a 10-year veteran of the Scottish coal pits. Videos of the strike also were featured, along with performances by traditional Irish musicians.

VANCOUVER: The Vancouver General Membership Branch's job-problem hotline has been humming since it began October 25th. Cases ranging from wrongful dismissal to non-payment of wages and harassment on the job have been dealt with as part of the Branch's ongoing efforts to provide concrete assistance to Vancouver's wage slaves and to secure organizing leads. The hotline has received media coverage in local newspapers and on television.

The Branch has also published a new pamphlet titled "What Does the IWW Mean by 'Abolition of the Wage System'?" and produced IWW T-shirts. Vancouver Wobs continue to be active in the Organization of Unemployed Workers, which is conducting a variety of strike-support activities, petitioning for free bus service for people on welfare, and working to build solidarity between employed and unemployed workers.

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO: Fellow Worker Ed Mann has appealed his conviction for resisting arrest to the Ohio Supreme Court, which agreed last December to hear the case, probably sometime this spring. The charge stems from an October 13th, 1982 demonstration outside the Trumbull County Memorial Hospital supporting striking hospital workers. Police dragged Mann away as they arrested him, and local labor officials were prompt to criticize the excessive force used by club-wielding police in breaking up the demonstration.

FW Mann was originally charged with aggravated riot, but a grand jury refused to issue an indictment on that count. He was convicted of resisting arrest on September 30th, 1983 after the judge excluded videotapes and other evidence proving, in the words of his attorney, "that Mann was singled out [for arrest] not because of illegal acts, but because of protected organizing activity and exercise of his free-speech rights".

The judge earlier singled FW Mann out at a court hearing concerning the Hospital's request for a restraining order against picketers, ruling that he would personally be held in contempt of court if there were any more

problems at picket sites—regardless of whether he was involved in or responsible for the incidents. This ruling effectively made FW Mann a hostage of the court to enforce its picketing injunction. The Youngstown ACLU is handling FW Mann's appeal.

WINNIPEG: Local Wobs have joined RWDSU picket lines at Eaton's, an over-priced Canadian retail giant whose workers voted to unionize last October. Eaton's refused meaningful negotiations, so RWDSU members in Ontario and Manitoba went on strike.



Chicago Wobblies join hundreds picketing the South African Consulate to protest that government's apartheid policies and suppression of black workers.

STILL OUT AT KELLER FISH

Three IWW members are continuing their strike against the William F. Keller Company of East Northport, New York. The strike began October 25th, demanding union recognition, an end to Keller's union-busting tactics, and improved working conditions (see the January *IWW*). A fourth worker, who had originally supported the union, walked off the job after the strike began, leaving two workers and a supervisor to carry out the fish distributorship's work.

In response to the strike, Keller has apparently closed up shop. Pickets report that there seems to be no activity at the shack Keller operated from, and the firm's phone has been transferred to Keller's home in Maine. When the strike began, Keller was reportedly considering closing up shop and re-opening under a different name in hope of defeating our union. Fellow Workers in New York are currently investigating to determine whether or not this has happened.

In response to charges filed against Keller by our organizer when the strike was begun, the National Labor Relations Board has found that Keller committed unfair labor practices, but has proposed a settlement which would merely require Keller to post a notice pledging to obey the law in the future. "This settlement would be more useful if they would send it to each of the strikers as toilet paper," notes IWW organizer Paul Poulos, who has filed an appeal on behalf of the strikers. The appeal notes that while our union is under no illusions concerning the anti-labor bias of the NLRB, a number of issues raised in our complaint have not been addressed, and the Board's findings are contrary to law.

On January 15th strikers made an unconditional offer to return to work, as part of a strategy to flush Keller out and bring the strike to a conclusion. At press time, Keller has not yet responded to this offer.

More than \$1400 has been raised thus far to aid these fellow workers in their strike. Contributions have been received from across the continent, many from unemployed and low-income members who have very little to spare. These contributions are deeply appreciated, and have played a decisive role in keeping food on the table and the landlord from the door. Although contributions continue to be welcomed (and can be sent to the Keller Strike Fund, care of the New York IWW, Box 183, New York 10028), those who are undergoing financial hardships themselves are asked to allow their more-affluent fellow workers to carry the burden at this point.

On January 23rd FW Poulos went to trial on charges stemming from a picket-line incident in which a scab tried to run down three picketers with his truck, hitting one, and then came at them brandishing a two-foot-long iron bar. FW Poulos attempted to restrain this scab, and was promptly arrested for his trouble.

On March 18th FW Poulos goes to trial on charges stemming from a picket-line incident in which a scab tried to run down three picketers with his truck, hitting one, and then came at them brandishing a two-foot-long iron bar. FW Poulos attempted to restrain this scab, and was promptly arrested for his trouble. The case had originally been set for trial on January 23rd, but was continued after FW Poulos and other union members had spent several hours waiting in court because the District Attorney was not ready to go to trial.

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AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL
ONE UNION ONE LABEL ONE ENEMY

Industrial Worker

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FRISCO BOSSES OFFENSIVE

San Francisco has had a reputation as a "strong union town" since the ILWU/Bridges general strike of the 1930s. Recently, however, the local labor movement has suffered some disturbing setbacks.

The Macy's/Emporium strike by the Retail Clerks resulted in substantial concessions, including loss of weekend and night premium pay, health care, and some seniority rights. This strike was called against Macy's, which had just enjoyed a record profit-making year, but soon spread as the Emporium Company imposed a "sympathy lockout" in support of their supposed competitor.

Though Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 2 accepted a concessionary agreement in its settlement with most of San Francisco's struck restaurants, the strike is still under way against 17 which refuse to settle. The first serious call for a general strike in at least 30 years was presented by Local 2's membership during the strike, receiving the support of 17 delegates to the Bay Area Labor Council. San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein was quick to denounce the idea, claiming that "People don't like to be threatened." However she failed to provide any examples of cases in which the bosses had responded to anything other than threats—or the actual exercise—of workers' organized power at the point of production.

Meanwhile, the Bay Area's largely-organized janitorial workers are facing heightened attacks. Among the most flagrant have been the efforts of Pacific Bell to complete the elimination of all union janitors from its California facilities. Pacific Bell Vice-President Robert Roche told the state's Public Utilities Commission last year that "We change janitors every two or three years... just as we change our cars." Almost all San Francisco janitors work for janitorial-service companies which bid for contracts with the large office buildings. Despite state laws which require Pacific Bell to pay the prevailing wage (which in San Francisco is union scale), the company has been transferring its contracts to non-unionized contractors who pay wages up to 50% below the standard \$10.55 an hour. Several of these contractors have been proven to be violating the prevailing wage standard, and Pacific Bell and its subcontractors have been fined thousands of dollars for this practice. Meanwhile, Pacific Bell is seeking nearly \$2.5 billion in rate hikes.

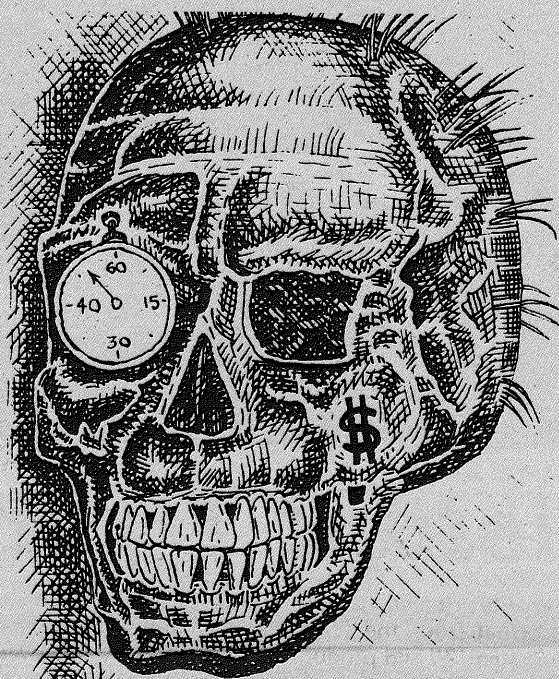
Local 87 of the Service Employees International Union represents about 4,000 San Francisco janitors. It reaches its ethnically-diverse membership through publications in English, Spanish, Arabic, and Chinese. Its membership is covered by at least two different contracts, with the main one expiring in June 1985. Quite a battle is expect-

ed at that time, in view of the ongoing employers' offensive. The workers' situation is made more difficult by the contracting system, since few janitors are direct employees of the buildings they work in. Because of this, picketing a worksite can be considered a "secondary strike" under federal anti-labor legislation, and can result in both the Local and the International being sued for damages, and in injunctions against the strike. So the union has been working to develop other tactics.

Among these is a network of Action Representatives, intended to develop more rank-and-file participation and to mobilize union members for joint action with other groups. The union seeks to have at least one Action Rep for each building where its members work. These fellow workers have played a key role in organizing four major demonstrations against unfair employers—including the phone company—in recent months. This network is firmly under the control of the local union, and union members are *required* to participate in some of these demonstrations. But it does provide a framework through which workers are encouraged to become active in their union's struggles.

X332878

Kurt Vance / Ron Richardson



or at least as safe as other mines throughout the country, claiming that the company "doesn't have a perfect safety record, but has a responsible safety record". According to the *Denver Post*, the US Government apparently concurs, stating that the 27 deaths are "acceptable" by "historic standards". They base this claim on the fact that mining deaths have dropped from the horrendous levels posted early in the century (3440 miners died in 1907 in the coal fields). No doubt the families of the dead miners find this comforting.

The UMW has stopped short of blaming the company for the fire, but has questioned its attempt to set a production record that night. "It speaks for itself," said one UMW official. Indeed it does—and the UMW's failure to object to this grandstanding at the risk of human life until after the tragedy had already occurred also speaks for itself.

Until we organize to demand that our working conditions be made safe—refusing to sacrifice our lives to the bosses' profits—the bosses will continue to play games with our lives. Mine disasters like this one are not accidents, and a union that allows these conditions to persist on a job it has organized is really no union at all.

JB

Speed-Up Kills 27

21 miners, 4 supervisors, and 2 corporate executives were killed December 19th when an Orangeville, Utah coal mine burst into flames. Only one worker in the affected area managed to escape.

The miners were trying to break the world record of mining 21,000 tons of coal in one shift, under the prodding of corporate executives, in what United Mine Workers President Richard Trumka later called a "race toward death". The disaster struck just one month after workers ended their strike against the Emery Mining Company, owned by Utah Power and Light. Emery has been mechanizing its mining in recent months, and the miners were working a new machine designed to make one miner do the work of four when the fire broke out. Apparently the blaze was sparked when a fast-moving conveyor belt carrying coal down a tunnel overheated under the strain and ignited the seam of coal being mined. The disaster raised the 1984 death toll in the mining industry to 123, up from 70 in 1983.

Utah Power and Light insists that its mines are safe,

Danly Strike Scabbed to Death

After eight and a half months on strike, members of Steel Workers Local 15271 accepted a contract January 22nd by a nearly 3-to-1 majority. The strike, against the Danly Machine Corporation of Cicero, Illinois, began when Danly demanded mandatory overtime, elimination of seniority rights, work-rule changes, a three-year wage freeze, and a two-tier wage system (see the October 1984 *Industrial Worker*).

Although the original strike vote was backed by 97% of Danly's workers, scabbing was a serious problem. The strike ended with 400 scabs—about as many as were working before the strike began—150 of whom were union members who crossed the lines in ever-increasing numbers as the strike wore on. Indeed, in the final days of the strike Danly was reported turning away scabs.

Faced with a badly-weakened union, Danly agreed to a new contract only because it has work booked solid for the next three years and is eager to bring back skilled workers who were reluctant to cross picket lines. The new contract is similar in many respects to an earlier pact rejected 175 to 105 just two weeks before.

The new pact obliges Danly to call back 103 strikers by early February, and to set up a 300,000-dollar fund to compensate workers (on a seniority basis) who are not called back to work. Wages are frozen for the first two years of the contract, and workers will be required to

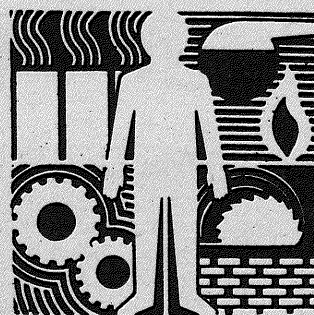
cover part of their medical expenses. Eighteen workers face suspensions ranging from one to six months for their activities on the picket line, though the company has agreed to subject these suspensions to arbitration. All scabs will remain in the plant.

The union recognizes that this is hardly a great contract, but feels it was the best it could do in view of the massive scabbing. "A lot of people surprise you," noted Sam Kaster, vice-president of USWA Local 15272. Although the Steel Workers International launched a corporate campaign against Ogden (the owners of Danly) last fall, that campaign had little impact according to the strikers, who maintain that strikes are won or lost on the picket line. Throughout the strike, picketers were barred from effective picketing by a "temporary" restraining order. Nor did the National Labor Relations Board offer any assistance. Several complaints were filed by the union without so much as a hearing by the NLRB.

Graffiti on the walls of Danly's plant proclaim that it is a scab hut. Signs inside the union hall tell members where they can get credit, and note that "scabs need not apply". Now that the strike is ended, and some of the strikers are going back to work, the union faces an uphill battle to rebuild based on a workforce composed predominantly of scabs. This will be no easy task.

Fred Thompson's

labor in north america



The boycott of California grapes is on again. Ten years ago it resulted in the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act—the only legislation of its kind in the US. Now the Governor has castrated the Act by vetoing appropriations to enforce it, with 6300 farm workers awaiting \$72 million in back pay, and the Agricultural Labor Relations Board refusing to require growers to negotiate contracts when their workers vote in a union.

Unions across the country have been having similar troubles with the National Labor Relations Board, as it lets cases pile up by the thousand and makes more and more anti-labor decisions. Talk that unions might just forget about the NLRB has jarred it into processing some of its backlog—but not nearly enough.

Twenty states have "right to work" laws that forbid closed union shops. Average pay in those states in 1983 was \$10,708, compared with \$12,186 in the other thirty states.

The Locomotive Engineers (BLE) are asking railroads for a guaranteed annual minimum wage, a profit-sharing or stock-sharing plan, and job stabilization with training and retraining programs. Rail unions keep fighting plans to move coal by pipeline. The latest such scheme is to move New Mexico coal through a slurry of liquid carbon dioxide.

In mid-January UAW workers making Corvettes went out on strike.... The UAW has reached an advance pact with the Japanese firm Mazda to represent the workers at its Flat Rock, Michigan plant when it opens. Such advance arrangements used to be restricted to the construction field.... The Canadian UAW has arranged to pull out its 10% of the total UAW membership so as to have control over its staff and strike funds and an opportunity to promote a merger with Canadian Molders, Steel Workers, Machinists, and the like to form a Metal Workers Federation of Canada similar to the German Metal Workers Federation.... The UAW points out that a long string of experts paid by the US to negotiate trade with Japan have wound up representing Japanese manufacturers after leaving government service, and that a major US export problem is "the strong dollar—good for Wall Street but bad for Peoria".

For more fraternal international relations: Actors' guilds in Britain and the US are arranging to safeguard the interests of members working on each other's turf, and there is widespread union condemnation of the suppression of unions and workers' rights in South Africa.

Canadian lumber workers note their dwindling forests and urge a shift from lumber exports to complete processing of their lumber at home. On the US West Coast, unemployed lumber workers are urging lower interest and mortgage rates to boost the housing industry.

The National Education Association notes that average pay for teachers across the US is \$22,000—25% below that of comparable workers in private industry. Just before the Christmas holiday, Chicago Teachers (AFT) won a 4.5% increase plus a one-time 2.5% bonus for the 22,000 teachers and 12,000 members of 17 other unions who had gone out on strike with them.... Arbitration got the nation's 290,000 Postal Workers and 195,000 Letter Carriers a 2.7% increase each year for three years, plus COLA, instead of the wage freeze and two-tier pay cut the Postmaster General had wanted.

In mid-January Rath Packing of Waterloo, Iowa asked its hands (who *pro forma* own the company) to plow in another \$4500 apiece to keep it going.... In Esterville, Iowa, Morrell Packing had negotiated a pay cut with its United Food and Commercial Workers local with the threat that otherwise the plant would close. Now Morrell is to reimburse 460 employees with \$600,000 because the contract was with the International union, which had not agreed to the pay cut. The UFCW has also won \$4 million in back pay for 800 workers at two Armor-Dial plants, subsidiaries of Greyhound Bus; one is a soap factory at Aurora, Illinois, the other a meat-processing plant at Fort Madison, Iowa.

The UMWA represents the miners at the Wilber mine in Utah where 27 were killed in a dust explosion December 19th—the result of a disregard for safety practices in a production drive egged on by the management, some of whom also were killed in the blast. Unionism is more than just a contract: it is collective action by workers to make the job a safe and decent place to earn a living.

Some strikes are mighty hard to win. The Steel Workers had to give up their nine-month strike at Saint Joe Lead in Missouri, uncertain when the 400 strikers would be recalled, but getting the company to send out the lay-off notices so they could start collecting unemployment compensation. Yet it is probably these long strikes that are hard to win—and that sometimes get lost—that convince other employers it is best to settle and get on with production.

WORLD LABOR NEWS

WORKERS' STRUGGLE IN THE PHILIPPINES

On January 17th, an *IW* staffer in Chicago attended a press conference called by Father Jose Dizon, formerly Deputy Secretary General of the Philippine Nationalist Alliance for Justice, Freedom, and Democracy. Dizon was touring the US to rally support for non-intervention in the developing struggle within the Philippines. As he pointed out, non-intervention in this case includes dismantling the 15 US military installations already in the country, including Clark Air Force Base and the Subic naval base, the two largest US military bases outside the continental United States. Dizon spoke of the Filipino workers' being in the forefront of the developing struggle, as they have the most leverage: "After Aquino was killed in 1983, millions of people marched; but Marcos is there."

There are several labor federations in the Philippines, most prominently the right-wing Trade Union Congress of the Philippines, generally regarded as a Government mouthpiece; the Federation of Free Workers; and the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU: May First Movement), founded in May of 1980. Dizon suggested that political and economic issues are more closely entwined in the Philippines than they are elsewhere. The policy of the 19-year-old Marcos regime has been to keep unions weak and wages low so as to attract foreign investment in the form of multinational corporations and export-oriented agriculture. Hence any strike can be declared illegal on the grounds of "national security", and the Government is increasingly recognized as the multinationals' tool for repressing the local workforce.

Since the start of the '80s, the economic situation of most Filipinos has declined: 80% are below the poverty line, and 50 pesos a day (about \$3 US) is the legal minimum wage, even though by the Government's own figures a family of six needed 88 pesos a day to survive in 1983. Since 1980 most strikes have involved wages, usually trying to force the employer to pay at least the legal

minimum. In the countryside, impoverished farmers and fishers live a hand-to-mouth existence, malnutrition is commonplace, and tuberculosis is rampant.

As the price of rice and fish doubles from year to year, the political situation polarizes between the ruling elite and everyone else. Last summer saw a number of transport-worker strikes and a strike against the Benguet Corporation by 100,000 miners led by the National Miners and Allied Workers Union. But strikes are only one form of protest against the prevailing economic circumstances. Other forms include rallies and demonstrations; peasant rent boycotts, particularly on the island of Luzon; and guerrilla insurgency. The New People's Army,



the military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines, continues its protracted war against Government troops on the northern island of Luzon and the southern island of Mindanao. Government troops are still trying to suppress the Bango Moro Army supported by the Philippines' Muslim minority on the southern islands, where a laborer, if he is lucky enough to have a job at all, may make 9¢ an hour.

The widespread struggle faces intensive repression by Government troops intended to quell protest, particularly in the provinces, by brute force. In strike-related incidents in 1984, 13 persons were killed and 231 injured. On the island of Mindanao alone, the Task Force on Detainees of the Philippines reported 640 political arrests; 170 people "salvaged" (summarily executed by Government troops); 41 missing; 93 killed and 35 wounded in massacres; 54 killed and 35 wounded in strafings; 12 killed and 25 wounded in bombing sorties; 13 killed in arson cases; 4100 affected by hamletting (forcible evacuations a la Vietnam); and 302 arrested en masse.

The KMU, which represents about 500,000 out of perhaps 1.8 million organized workers making up about 10% of the total workforce, is trying to go beyond wage-hike strikes and rally "multi-sector support for a general strike". In the meantime it is trying to organize in strategic industries and do political education as well as campaign for the release of imprisoned unionists.

The KMU may be sending some people to the US on a speaking tour this spring. US Wobblies in particular are well placed to protest attempts by the US Government to support its Philippine counterpart, and all Wobblies are urged to support our Philippine fellow workers.



On July 19th, 1984 police and military goons attacked 200 strikers picketing the Artex Development Corporation in Panghulo, Metro-Manila. At least 8 workers were shot, 12 suffered wounds and contusions, and 18 were arrested and detained without charge for 3 days.

Sound of a Distant Drum

Britain's middle class rode into 1985 with each sector on its own wave of mutual adoration for its own worth, welfare, and future. For the Dickensian liberals there has been the starvation of the thousands in Ethiopia to add the needed pinch of salt to the Christmas pudding, and of their charity and their wealth they gave generously. Yet with the usual news blackout over Christmas they found that the right-wing papers guiding them into 1985 had cleared the death by starvation of the men, women, and children in Ethiopia as no longer newsworthy, and the jolly liberals could lay back and belch gas and glory while they waited for the next call on "the conscience of the world". And for the brainless right wing there was Ma Thatcher in her PR-created role of Superwoman flying around the world laying stale eggs, until the great moment when she landed as ever on the creaking lap of the President of These United States, mother and son united in an incestuous political naughty-naughty strictly for late-night viewing.

It is all there to choose, from the christening of Princess Diana's son Prince Harry in the Royal Chapel to miners leader Arthur Scargill spending Christmas day on a picket line, yea and even scandal over the love life of poor old Sid Vincent, the leader of the Lancashire miners. With his striking members manning the picket lines, this union boss decided to take a Christmas holiday in sun-drenched Tenerife in the Canary Islands; and poor

old Sid and his holiday shorts found himself on the front pages and TV screens of Britain's media. And we who freeze in these small islands can only wonder through our tears if it was worth it.

And then there are the small group of civil servants, striking through almost the whole of 1984 against losing seven hours' pay a week in a "new" shift system, who have been beaten by their own white-collar union, and have lost their long strike and feel bitter and betrayed.

Yet one major victory for the working class may surface in this Year of Grace, for a small group of women have finally forced Ford's Detroit management to come to heel. For 16 years these 380 women working as seat-cover machinists at Britain's Motown have fought for the same pay as their male workmates, card-indexed as "skilled workers". Their previous strike brought 42,000 Ford workers to a halt, and with their current action this small group of women have forced the layoff of 10,000 Ford employees (a loss of 43,400 cars amounting to a value of \$398,400,000). And all this industrial discord from Detroit over a pay raise of \$9.60 on a weekly pay packet of \$193. But in God's name they are right, for their cause is just.

Arthur Moyse, London

UNION ACTIVISM (RE)SURGES IN EL SALVADOR

After several years of effective repression, the Salvadoran labor movement is again taking the offensive. According to Salpress, an independent Latin press agency, there were 34 strikes and 88 other worker actions between July and October. Service workers' unions have participated more than industrial unions in the resurgence, because the wave of terror in 1979 to '81 affected them less.

Strike demands have gone beyond wages and collective bargaining, including release of political prisoners, investigation of the whereabouts of the "disappeared", lifting of the state of siege, annulment of the anti-labor laws, and opening of a dialogue between the Government and the guerrillas.

The Salvadoran Teachers Association (ANDES) and the Committee of Mothers and Relatives of the Political Prisoners and Missing Persons (a non-labor organization) were some of the most notable participants in the first major march for peace since the start of the civil war. Chanting "Bullets no, beans yes!" some 5,000 people marched through the main streets of San Salvador. This kind of open demonstration would have been inconceivable only two years ago.

Amnesty International reports that on January 12th Salvador Escalante Chavez, Secretary General of the Fed-

eracion Sindical Revolucionaria (Revolutionary Trade Union Federation), was arrested by plainclothes members of the national police in San Salvador. Escalante, a quality controller at the Liso Coffee Plant, was leaving work when he was arrested and reportedly taken to the national police headquarters in the city. The incident occurred two days before the FSR was to hold a congress at which a new secretary-general was to be elected.

Escalante was previously arrested at the FSR's January 19th, 1984 congress, together with 13 other union members. By September 1984 all had been released. Reports indicated that some of them were pressured, by both physical and psychological means, to confess that they were members of the Fuerzas Populares de Liberacion (Popular Liberation Forces).

SOUTH AFRICAN UNIONISM: Since 1979, when black workers in South Africa won legal recognition as "employees", black unions have grown five times as fast as white unions. By 1983 black unions surpassed the 300,000 mark, and new unions were being organized in such vital sectors as the gold industry. Many of the independent black unions have concentrated on building plant-based organizations with strong shop-steward networks capable of handling immediate shop-floor issues and recognizing the link between economic and political issues. Thus in early November 1984, when South Africa's industrial heartland was paralyzed by a two-day general strike, an ad-hoc coalition of unions, student groups, and community organizations could be mobilized in less than a week in the face of extensive political repression.

GUIDELINES SET ON VDT USE

Representatives of unions from 20 nations met in Geneva, Switzerland last year to draw up guidelines for protections for the hundreds of millions of workers now using video display terminals on the job. The conference called for measures to ensure that the machines emit only low levels of low-frequency radiation, which is suspected of being a reproductive hazard.

The conferees adopted a lenient standard for radiation emissions, one which most VDTs can already meet and which others can easily be brought into compliance with through the installation of an inexpensive shield. They also voted that pregnant VDT operators should be able to request transfer to other work without loss of pay, seniority, or other benefits; called for regular rest breaks of 15 minutes for every hour of intensive work; recommended annual eye examinations; set a standard for work-station light levels; and opposed automatic performance and behavior monitoring of VDT operators.

Participants stressed that VDTs should not be "used to collect or store individually-identifiable data on arrival and departure times, work breaks, keyboard speeds, corrections made, or other performance- or behavior-related data". Currently some operators are paid by the keystroke and are required to maintain a minimum level of keystrokes per minute, leading to speedup and intense stress.

CORRECTIONS

In our front-page article "New York Wobs Strike Keller Fish" (January 1985), a typesetter's error resulted in the statement that a fourth worker walked off the job shortly before the strike began. That worker actually quit shortly after the pickets went up.

Similarly, a typesetting error in our article "Zenith—the Pits" (February 1985, Page 3) led to the statement that the Third World no longer merely provides raw materials for manufacturing centers in the *developing* nations, but now does much of the world's manufacturing as well. That should have read *developed* nations.

Business Union Tactics Self-defeating

Clerical workers at the University of Michigan are facing increased attacks by management in the wake of a bargaining-representation election narrowly lost last December by the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

The University's more than 3,000 clericals have gone through five organizing drives in the last ten years. Originally the United Auto Workers was called in by a rank-and-file group and selected by workers to represent them, but it was later decertified when many clerical workers found it unresponsive to their needs. Workers were then represented by an independent union, which eventually was also decertified. Three years ago the AFSCME began an organizing drive, which it lost by some 80 votes. A subsequent drive ending last December also was narrowly defeated.

Yet while the AFSCME has sought to secure this large bargaining unit (and thus add more than 3,000 dues payers to its ranks), it has done little to assist workers in shop-floor struggles.

Because of this, a permanent part-time worker at the University of Michigan hospital contacted the Detroit/Ann Arbor IWW two years ago for assistance. Along with 16 other women, she speed-types the contents of patients' charts from tapes onto which physicians have dictated highly-technical material for patient records. These workers type 80 to 120 words a minute, receiving a base pay of \$5 an hour plus an "incentive" (piece rate) based on tape minutes typed daily.

In 1982 management computerized the transcription department, replacing typewriters with word processors and telling these workers that with the new equipment they would be able to type so much faster that their "incentive" pay would have to be "adjusted" to make up the difference. The resultant pay cut averaged \$200 a month, despite the speedup and more difficult working conditions.

Workers were quick to resist this attack, but were hesitant to become involved in the AFSCME's ongoing organizing drive, having had bad experiences with the business unions that had represented them in past years. Because the IWW lacked the resources to carry out an organizing drive among all of the University's clericals, the worker who had originally approached us decided, after several discussions with IWW activists, to support the AFSCME drive. With the aid of fellow workers from our Detroit/Ann Arbor General Membership Branch, and aware of the pitfalls of business unionism, she organized her co-workers to press for rank-and-file controls, and secured a commitment from the AFSCME to pursue certain issues in negotiations. As a result of her activities and this agreement, nearly all the transcribers became active in the AFSCME drive.

At the same time, however, these workers faced continued attacks on the shop floor, through automation, speedups, work-rule changes, and pay reductions. Not content with hoping for change "bye and bye" after the AFSCME had won the election, they pressed for resis-

tance. And shortly after the transcribers joined the organizing drive, the University's attacks increased. One worker was harassed into early retirement, and two were fired.

When these attacks proved insufficient to deter union support, the University began a systematic campaign of harassment focusing on the worker who had contacted us and become the spokesperson for her co-workers. Six months after we became involved with these workers, the AFSCME lost the election by less than 1% of the vote, whereupon it filed a number of ballot challenges and directed supporters to keep a low profile.

The transcribers were unable to await the result of these challenges, however, as failure to resist the University's attacks meant accepting permanent pay cuts and significant deterioration of working conditions. The IWW assisted them in using the University grievance procedure to challenge the ongoing attacks. Numerous grievances were filed protesting the University's take-aways and harassment of union activists. The AFSCME was reluctant to support these grievances, agreeing only to press economic issues, and even that only under pressure. The IWW then provided representation in grievance hearings and other assistance to these embattled workers.

Faced with a largely united and increasingly rebellious workforce, the University decided to pursue a policy of "reconciliation", seeking to buy off workers by restoring the former pay rates and reaching back-pay settlements of over \$1,000 for most of the workers. But the same day the pay settlements were announced, harsh new work rules were laid down, including the elimination of flexible scheduling, and harassment of the more vocal and militant workers was stepped up.

Workers were denied the right to bring witnesses to disciplinary meetings, and their spokesperson found her working hours rearranged to restrict her access to co-workers and was given a two-day disciplinary layoff after appearing at a hearing for a co-worker who had been fired. Ultimately, although these workers did win some rear-guard actions—including the modification of some work rules and the firing of a particularly onerous supervisor—the University's buyout and the AFSCME's failure to defend its supporters in the workplace destroyed the unity of the transcribers.

Instead of defending these workers, the AFSCME pursued a divide-and-conquer strategy, refusing to defend the transcribers' spokesperson and actively working to discredit her—apparently in hope of destroying independent rank-and-file activity—before her co-workers. In the AFSCME's second organizing drive they allowed absolutely no rank-and-file activity—not even the formation of a rank-and-file committee! Once again they lost by less than 1% of the vote.

Clearly a solid core of union support exists among University of Michigan clerical workers. The AFSCME has sought to divert this pro-union sentiment away from shop-floor struggles and rank-and-file organizing into election drives that are mismanaged—after massive expenditures of energy and resources—into losses for all

"NATURAL WASTAGE": Lists of jobs circulated at colleges and universities around Christmas time by the British-based Graduate Careers and Appointment Services included a description of career opportunities in the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The relevant information included the sentence: "A limited number of vacancies for appointment as constable arises each month as a result of natural wastage."

Job Security and Shorter Hours

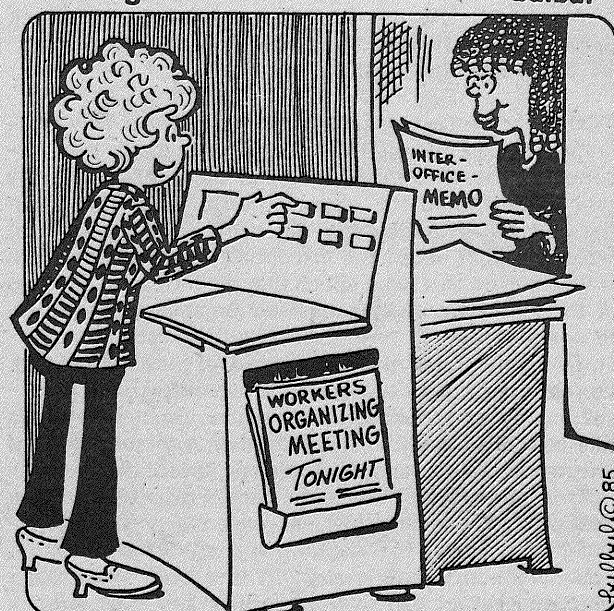
The May-June strike for the 35-hour week was the most important initiative of the German labor movement since World War II. At many auto plants and machine shops, IG Metall, the 2.6-million-member metal workers' union, had not struck once since the union was formed after the War. After six weeks the union settled for an average 38½-hour workweek, to begin in April 1985. What the strike's long-term effect will be on saving jobs is disputed within the German labor movement.

The union leadership feels that the strike was a victory in that the "40-hour barrier" was overcome, and that the strike increased the feeling of solidarity between German workers and "guest workers", who make up 20 to 30% of the workforce in IG Metall-organized plants.

Shop-floor workers, however, fear the contract will do more to increase employers' demands for flexibility in scheduling than to create job security. Ambiguities in the contract open the way for longer workweeks in summer and shorter ones in winter, just so they average out to 38½ hours per week over the year. The actual negotiations over the form the 38½-hour week will take at each plant are being left to the individual Works Councils, bodies at each workplace which are elected by all employees, not just union members. It will be up to the Works Councils to prevent the companies from working one department 40 hours and another 37, which would be allowed under the contract language. As the contract does not force employers to hire additional workers, it will also be the responsibility of the Works Councils to prevent the employers from trying to get the same production in 38½ hours as they did in 40 from the same number of workers by imposing speed-ups.

Ms Meg

bulbul



**THE BOSSES COPIES HAVE TO WAIT...
GOT A HOT JOB TO GET OUT!!**

clericals. New attacks are sure to follow this latest defeat, and reports indicate that the University is considering computer monitoring of production and "incentive" pay rates to all clerical workers.

The IWW is joining militant clerical workers in an attempt to provide some protection against and resistance to these attacks, and to build shop-floor, rank-and-file organization. X332142

UNION FIGHTS DUMPING POISONS ABROAD

On January 15th, 1981, in one of his last acts before leaving office, President Carter signed Executive Order 12264, "On Federal Policy Regarding the Export of Banned or Significantly Restricted Substances", aimed at curbing the export of hazardous substances produced in the US; 34 days later, one of Ronald Reagan's first official acts was to rescind the order.

In 1984, the Reagan Administration is still at it. With the help of Republican Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, Chairperson of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, they introduced legislation permitting US drug companies to manufacture and export to consumers in other countries drugs which have not been found acceptable by the Food and Drug Administration for sale to US consumers. The double standard was justified by the drug companies as creating jobs and tax revenues in this country.

One party that didn't buy the jobs argument was the International Chemical Workers Union, which let Hatch know of its opposition in no uncertain terms. The Union pointed out in a letter that "the jobs that would be created are outweighed by the tremendous ethical disadvantages of the bill. The idea of the bill is morally repugnant and can do nothing but harm the reputation of the US in the world community."

The bill died in committee, but is expected to be refiled this year. Workers in this country must be ready to oppose any attempt to legalize dumping of hazardous or toxic substances abroad and to resist that which goes on anyway. At the least, international solidarity demands that workers in one country refrain from co-operating with the poisoning of workers in another.

But even if IG Metall's victory is as full of loopholes as it seems to be, the union takes it for granted that the best collective-bargaining approach to the question of job security is shorter worktime. Before the last recession and the rise of Japanese competition, the United Auto Workers made references to a shorter workweek. Now, except in its Canadian section, the UAW's approach to job security for its members is to help US auto companies compete internationally. And if that means concessions on working conditions, pay, and union power, so be it.

Indeed, the UAW has gone so far as to support General Motors plans to invest \$52 million in what the company calls "the factory of the future"—an automated manufacturing complex that can operate for an eight-hour shift without any human production workers. The new complex, to be housed in an existing building at the Saginaw, Michigan Steering Gear Division, will be in partial operation by late 1985.

"This will be a learning laboratory where the concepts of vastly-increased efficiency can be tried out in actual production, perfected, and then spread to the rest of GM," gloated the company's vice-president for the mechanical-components group.

"We realize we have to co-operate or go out of business totally," said a glum UAW representative.

Like the UAW, IG Metall is a top-down organization which accepts the limits of traditional labor relations. The difference is that IG Metall is bureaucratic and respectable in pursuit of a radical demand. The UAW is bureaucratic and respectable in pursuit of "competitiveness".

plp

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION of the INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people, and the few who make up the employing class have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centering of the management of industries in fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever there is a strike or a lockout in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the everyday fight with capitalists, but also to carry on production once capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

Mr. Block: Twenty-four Cartoons of the Mr. Block Series, Charles H. Kerr Publishing Company, paperback, \$4.95, available from the IWW

During the first decade of this century a new phenomenon was making its impact on America's popular-culture scene. The introduction of the photo-engraving process facilitated the reproduction of line drawings in the mass print media, and the immigration of satirical artists brought about the institution of the comic strip. It was during this same epoch that the Industrial Workers of the World was picking up steam organizing the hitherto unorganized.

The early comic strips of those days were not the slick products of today's syndicated supplements, which consist mainly of serialized cliff-hangers. Each strip had a self-contained gag that didn't bother with subtlety, and the reader didn't have to anxiously await the next installment. Many of the early comic-strip artists were immigrants from Germany who were steeped in a long-standing tradition of combining graphics and humor. Some were fortunate enough to find work as cartoonists, while others had to find work of any kind. Among the latter was Ernest Riebe, who was an IWW member. As the IWW had many immigrants, the early issues of English-language IWW publications would carry job notices in many languages for those who had not become completely proficient in English.

Realizing that many of his fellow IWWs had only a sketchy command of the English language, Riebe wanted to be sure they understood the philosophy of industrial unionism. His comic strip Mr. Block appeared in the West Coast edition of the *Industrial Worker* in 1912 and 1913, and later made sporadic appearances in other IWW publications.

Thus appeared the personage of Mr. Block, who had on his shoulders a block of wood endowed with human features complete with a full range of expressive emotions, as were most cartoon characters in the early days of the comic strip. Most of the strips in those days were about fall guys who were the butt of misfortune; but Mr. Block differed from the other comic-strip characters in that he brought on his own misfortunes through sheer lack of class-consciousness. From the eyebrows down,

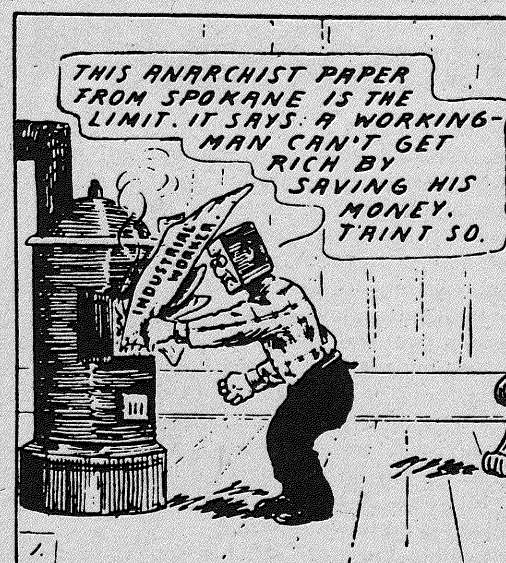
he was just another working stiff; but from the eyebrows up, he thought like a capitalist. As today, there were even then many workers who thought they had more to gain by brown-nosing the boss than by organizing with their fellow workers, and consequently formed a stumbling block in building effective on-the-job direct action.

It was this comic strip, which had become a regular feature in the IWW press, that inspired Joe Hill to write his song "Mr. Block", which is still a favorite in the repertoire of Wobbly concert artists.

This booklet is a reprint of the original comic book published in 1913 by the "Block Supply Company" in Minneapolis. It was printed privately by the cartoonist himself, who gave his publishing enterprises his own tongue-in-cheek titles. One such title he used during World War One, during the Palmer raids, was the "All-American Publishing Company", a handy ruse against the mail inspectors as well as an expression of his own keen sense of irony. Only slightly reduced from the originals, they are clear, faithful reproductions.

The original introduction by Walter C. Smith is included along with an up-to-date introduction by Franklin Rosemont, who states that Mr. Block is the illustrious forerunner of the "underground" comic strips that made their appearance during the 1960s. Rosemont is to be congratulated for taking pains to present a good historical background to this book. He makes a special historical footnote about the term "sabotage" which appears in the Mr. Block comic strips. Sabots were the wooden shoes the French peasants used to wear, and the popular though somewhat misinformed "historical" conception of sabotage was the destruction of machinery by throwing sabots into the delicate gears of the employers' precious machines. Sabotage also meant acting like a saboteur, or making like a rube: acting stupid to cut down production speed or, in classic Wobbly terms, the "conscientious withholding of efficiency".

While the original edition of this booklet enjoyed massive publication as well as widespread distribution, very few complete copies exist today, and those are in well-guarded university labor archives. A debt of gratitude is owed to the Kerr Publishing Company for doing this reprint of a priceless artifact from the annals of North American labor history. Along with the Mexican print-



maker Jose Guadalupe Posada, the German immigrant Wobbly Ernest Riebe ranks with the early graphic pioneers in the struggle for a better world.

As a graphic worker, your reviewer highly recommends this little booklet as an essential addition to your labor archives.

Carlos Cortez

BOOK REVIEW

A Machinist's Semi-Automated Life, by Roger Tulin, Singlejack Books, 43 pages, \$3.50

A Machinist's Semi-Automated Life is one of those small but important books which make a large statement in their content and through their existence. Not a romance or adventure novel, it's a story by a regular working man about his craft, the daily pressures and crises inherent on the shop floor, and the evolving nature of the machinist industry. For the uninitiated, Mr. Tulin effectively illustrates the dehumanization of creating something without ever knowing exactly what that creation does, being treated as little more than an expendable pair of hands rather than as a skilled craftsman, and being pictured in trade publications as a trained ape.

The book takes us into the work area of a typical small non-union machine shop, where we share the anxiety of being assigned to a strange machine and the pressure to make it produce something other than junk. In this way Mr. Tulin shows the changing nature of the metal-cutting industry as highly-automated, pre-programmed machines degrade the skilled machinists' worth and psyche, necessitating a Chaplinesque battle by the individual to retain sanity and perspective in such an atmosphere.

Mr. Tulin introduces us to his fellow workers: some alienated from their work and mistrustful of new employees; some who insist on finding a challenge every day, in every new setup. These are folks we've all met before: people willing to help out the other person, people worrying about their jobs, families, and bills as they struggle to make a living. Mr. Tulin tells his story as you or your next-door neighbor might tell it, making his points without going off the wall or being holier than thou. His is an honest working-class voice incorporating much more than machine-shop reality. He neither needs nor uses sex, violence, or rock and roll to make his stories come alive in a good-natured pragmatic manner.

A Machinist's Semi-Automated Life is an extraordinary sort of book for today's literary marketplace. It owes its existence to a small publishing house, Singlejack Books of San Pedro, California. Singlejack is an effort to publish writings about life on the job by those who actually live it; to present an image of working people as they are without stereotypes. Since the mid-1970s, Singlejack has been publishing novels, mini-books, and books of practical use to working people such as *Labor Law for the Rank and Filer*, by Staughton Lynd. Mr. Tulin's book is a good piece of writing, a slice of real life, and an excellent introduction to a very special publisher.

Renzo Giromini

Working Class Hero, by Stanley Aronowitz, Pilgrim Press, New York.

Stanley Aronowitz, a prominent leftist labor historian who believed that spontaneous rank-and-file revolts against employers will eventually take on a revolutionary syndicalist direction (direct economic action, workers' self-management of industry, class struggle as outlined in the IWW Preamble), has in his latest book, *Working Class Hero*, renounced his former radical ideas in favor of class collaboration between employers, the State, and unions in the tradition of Samuel Gompers (whom he now lauds for his "social unionism").

Aronowitz now repudiates "class-based unionism". His program adds up to a modernized New Deal-type regime in which future labor organization "would fit into the framework of our current [capitalist] political and economic program... from a client of organized capitalism, labor would become a partner in the system." Instead of workers' self-management, he would nationalize fundamental industrial and financial operations, leaving room for "free enterprise" investment and private ownership....

Aronowitz's book should be called *Working Class Turncoat*.

Sam Dolgoff, X327560



LITERATURE!

NEW PAMPHLET BLASTS WAGE SYSTEM

A new pamphlet setting forth several objections to the wage system and the IWW's grounds for seeking its abolition has been published by the Vancouver General Membership Branch. This eight-page pamphlet is profusely illustrated, and is available from the IWW for 50¢ a copy. Because of the high production costs on this title we cannot offer quantity discounts. Those seeking to order multiple copies should write directly to the Vancouver IWW.

"The wage system creates and perpetuates a wide range of injustices, drastically narrowing the potential of what it means to be a human being. Wages are necessary only in a society of compulsion. Abolition of the wage system is a step working people everywhere have to take if we are ever to build a better world, rather than just exchange one set of bureaucrats and bosses for another."

Posters:

() Joe Hill	5.00
() General Strike	5.00
() Huelga General	5.00
() Draftees of the World Unite	5.00
() Four Hours Work for Eight Hours Pay	5.00
() Fat Cat	5.00

LITERATURE DISCOUNT POLICY

Bulk orders of five or more of any item on the IWW Literature List, unless otherwise indicated, may be ordered at a 40% discount if orders are prepaid. We offer a 30% discount on similar orders which we must invoice. Postage will be added to all orders that are not prepaid. Please allow three weeks for delivery. (ND) indicates that no discount is available.

AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL IWW GROUPS:

A Workers' Guide to Direct Action: 50¢. New York IWW, PO Box 183, New York 10028.

Fellow Union Member: 10¢ each; bundles of 5 to 15, 5¢; 16 to 500, 3¢; over 500, 2¢. Tacoma/Olympia IWW, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma, Washington 98405.

Introduction to the IWW: 10¢ each; bulk rate 40% discount, paid in advance. San Francisco IWW, PO Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140.

Solidarity Bulletin (monthly publication): \$10 a year. Vancouver IWW, PO Box 34334, Station D, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6J 4P3.

Please send all orders (unless otherwise designated) to: IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657 (USA).

Practical and Informational:

() Organizing Manual	.75
() Collective Bargaining Manual	2.00
() Labor Law for the Rank and Filer*	2.50
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() General Defense Button	.35

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Tent City, USA

"But there's no phone listed for Tent City. In case we do find you a job, could you give us the phone number of a responsible neighbor?"

"My nearest neighbor is Mayor Tom Bradley, City Hall, across the street. He can page me when a call for work comes through."

Welcome to Tent City, Los Angeles, homeless capital of America: 300 indigents lucky enough to find a flimsy roof over their heads on Christmas, out of an estimated 30,000 to 50,000 homeless in LA County.

Signs scrawled on strips of cardboard announce: "We Have to Sell Our Blood to Live", "We Need Homes, Not Streets; Jobs, Not Handouts", "Supervisors: Do You Still Need More Studies?"

About 64% of these homeless people are between 18 and 40. The average period of unemployment is two years. In 1983 over 200 died on the street.

HOT (Homeless Organizing Team) was created two years ago. Composed of 20 articulate Skid Road people, the group has drawn assistance from the *Catholic Worker* and the Interfaith Hunger Coalition.

Heat was non-existent in the long tent set up for men. (Five women were assigned to a tepee by themselves.) Anyone who wanted to wash his or her face had to step outside to the drinking fountain.

What brought so many to this destitute state was the welfare system. Skid Road people "worked" 68½ hours a month for a pittance of \$228 plus food stamps. If they were lucky, the County found them housing for \$200 to \$240. And the voucher system assigned a few to overnight shelter in sub-standard hotels.

But they had to present evidence of having applied for at least 20 jobs. And if they were late or absent from welfare work even once (even with good excuse) or if they failed to follow instructions in filling out forms or had illegible handwriting, they were tossed off welfare for 60 days, and onto the street—especially tough on Chicanos who didn't understand English!

A number of these homeless folk were unemployable psychiatric cases who'd been dumped onto the street when state agencies had lost allocations for their care.

Did dramatizing the issue by pitching their tent on state property bring results?

"There has been no positive action from any official body," admitted Harry Rodgers of HOT. "They dumped us in there," referring to the 2-to-2 stalemate vote of the County Board of Supervisors to drop the hated 60-day penalty period. "Case studies; 10-page reports—that's all we got out of them." On January 2nd the City Council voted not to extend the tent permit.

A few stragglers milling around for belongings muttered about vacant state land, empty schools and other buildings, then conceded that there'd be landlord problems and enough red tape to hang yourself. "Where do I go now? What will I do?" they asked each other.

A somber handful of volunteers were folding up the narrow cots, sorting and stacking abandoned blankets and clothing in preparation for the dismantling of the tent.

"Could I have that slab of cardboard from off the floor?" asked a middle-aged ex-carpenter. "It'll help keep the grass damp off me."

Where was he planning to spend the night? "Probably right here on the hill by City Hall." (The next day he and two others were arrested on trespassing charges when they refused to leave this state property.)

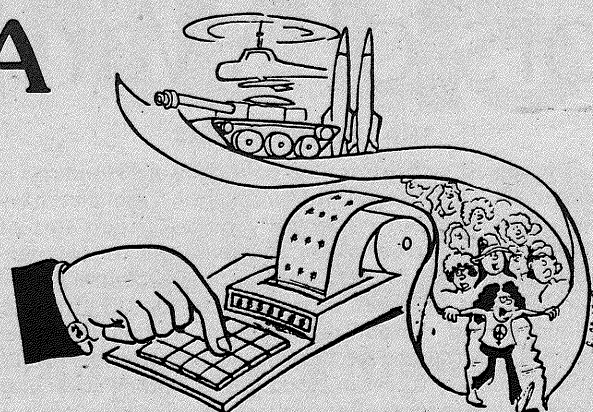
We volunteers had strong stomachs. The rank stench of unwashed bodies mingled with the odor of urine. Many blankets were soaked through. Some had found it impossible to reach the outdoor toilets set up for their use.

This foul, cluttered dump had been their home for two weeks. Over 250 men had signed a petition to keep their tent. "On January 2nd, 1985, we the residents of Tent City will lose our home. We have no place to go, meaning that once again park benches, trash cans, and cardboard boxes will be our home."

"Don't expect militancy here," a HOT spokesperson warned. "Folks this far down don't have the energy to fight." But HOT had a surprise coming.

After witnessing the tie vote of the Board of Supervisors, twelve men and one woman bound themselves together and refused to leave the County Building. At closing time the protesters were dragged out, handcuffed, and booked at Parker Center Jail on suspicion of trespassing. They may be guests of the City for six months.

I caught up with a bag lady who was pushing a shopping cart borrowed from Safeway. The cart contained a soiled blanket, a spoon, a pair of men's woolen socks, a



harmonica, and a piece of string. Three or four dresses worn one over the other gave this sixtyish woman a false appearance of chubbiness.

"Nope, there wasn't room for me at Tent City. No matter, I been sleeping in doorways for three years now. When it rains I just scrunch up and hope the wind don't blow."

Down apace a clutter of rags hugged the gutter. As I drew near, the refuse heap developed an arm flung to the street, a knee jackknifed to the chest, a head with almost human eyes, nose, and mouth gaping vacantly at the sky.

Dorice McDaniels

IW SUSTAINING FUND

(Received in December 1984)

Patrick Hanlon, Fort Bragg, California, and John and Anna Shuskey, Hammononton, New Jersey, in memory of Aileen Hanlon	60.00
George LaForest, Rockford, Illinois	5.00
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Gilbert Mers, Houston, Texas	14.00
Jackie Eubanks, Brooklyn, New York	5.00

TOTAL 151.00

Many thanks, fellow workers, for your generous support.
The *Industrial Worker* loss for December was \$492.80.

SHADES OF B. TRAVEN: BRAZIL-NUT WAR

More than 20 people were killed last year in the Amazon jungles where brazil-nut trees are grown. Plantation owners say the violence was the work of gangs of thieves who invaded their property, murdered their nut pickers, cut down trees, and made off with loads of valuable wood and nuts. But local activists say the "invaders" were in fact *pistoleiros*, gunslingers hired by plantation bosses to get rid of peasant farmers growing little patches of food for their families on brazil-nut land where ownership titles are in dispute. The peasants fought back after growers started a terror campaign during which *pistoleiros* killed three settlers and burned down the houses of 500 others.

"Most of the plantation owners' land claims are not supported by legally-registered deeds," reports Adelina Braglia, an activist in the Maraba Farm Workers' Union and a left-wing member of the Maraba city council. "But the owners routinely get corrupt judges and police to help them back up their claims."

Meanwhile, the brazil-nut harvest continues in the same manner it has since Portuguese colonizers set it up centuries ago. Pickers, faced with malaria and poisonous snakes, spend six straight months in the jungle living under canvas lean-tos, waiting for ripe, softball-size nut pods to drop from the 150-foot trees. Then, laboring 14 hours a day, they carry the nuts, 85 pounds at a time, to barns along Amazon River tributaries.

"Often you don't make any money because the boss doesn't tell you until after the harvest how much the pay is for each pound you've picked," reports Joaquim Rodrigo dos Santos, a nut gatherer from Maraba. "Then the boss deducts for all the food and supplies you signed for at the company store, out there in the jungle."

"Sometimes you wind up owing the company."

IWW Directory



ALASKA: Anchorage: Ruth Sheridan, Delegate, 4704 Kenai, Anchorage, Alaska 99508. Juneau/Douglas IWW, Barry Roderick, Delegate, PO Box 748, Douglas, Alaska 99824. Fairbanks: Chris White, Delegate, Box 72938, Fairbanks, Alaska 99707.

BRITISH COLUMBIA: Vancouver IWW, Box 34334, Station D, Vancouver, BC V6J 4P3, Canada, (604) 430-6605. Job Problems Hotline: (604) 876-8438. West Kootenay IWW, PO Box 941, Nelson BC V1L 6A5, Canada.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Pat McConkey, Delegate, 1868 Columbia Road Northwest (610), Washington DC 20009.

CALIFORNIA: Little River IU 130, c/o Graham, PO Box 302, Little River, California 95456. San Diego: Sandra Dutky, Delegate, 4472 Georgia, San Diego, California 92116, (619) 296-9966. R. M. R. Kroopkin, Delegate, 3924½ Park Boulevard, San Diego, California 92103. San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch: PO Box 40485, San Francisco, California 94140. Santa Clara Valley IWW: PO Box 9249, Suite 194, San Jose, California 95157. Oakland: Richard Ellington, Delegate, 6448 Irwin Court, Oakland, California 94609, (415) 658-0293.

FLORIDA: Fred Hansen, Box 824, New Port Richey, Florida 33552.

GEORGIA: Elton Manzione, Delegate, 729 Pulaski, Athens, Georgia 30603, (404) 353-1218.

GUAM: Guam IWW Group, Shelby Shapiro, Delegate, PO Box 864, Agana, Guam 96910.

IDAHO: IWW Delegate, Route 1, Box 137, Potlach, Idaho 83855. Southeastern Idaho Forest Workers Affinity Group, IU 120, Box 764, Pocatello, Idaho 83201.

ILLINOIS: Champaign-Urbana IWW, Jeff Stein, Delegate, 1007 North Randolph, Champaign, Illinois 61820. Chicago General Membership Branch, IWW, 3435 North Sheffield, Suite 202, Chicago, Illinois 60657, (312) 549-5045. Meetings first Wednesday of each month, 7:30 pm.

INDIANA: IWW Delegate, PO Box E-206, Richmond, Indiana 47374.

KANSAS: General Defense Committee, Arthur J. Miller, Secretary, PO Box 6130, Kansas City, Kansas 66106. Wichita: IWW Delegate, PO Box 522, Wichita, Kansas 67201. Lawrence: Jovan Weismiller, Delegate, 917 Ohio, Apartment A, Lawrence, Kansas 66044.

KENTUCKY: Louisville IWW Group, Delegate, 2024 Baringer Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky 40204.

MANITOBA: Winnipeg IWW, "Haywire Brack", Delegate, Box 161, Station C, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 3S7, Canada.

MASSACHUSETTS: Boston General Membership Branch, PO Box 454, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139. Meetings first Sunday of each month, 522-7090 or 625-5107.

MICHIGAN: Ann Arbor/Detroit General Membership Branch, c/o Kaufmann, 42 South Summit, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197. Copper County: Robin Oye, Delegate, PO Box 392, Hancock, Michigan 49930. Grand Rapids: IWW Delegate, 415 Ethel, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506. People's Warehouse IU 660 Branch, c/o Kozura, 2237 Shadowood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. University Cellular IU 660 Job Branch, 341 East Liberty, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107.

MINNESOTA: Minneapolis/Saint Paul IWW, Nancy Arthur Collins, Delegate, 1621 Marshall (3), Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104.

MONTANA: Clark Fork Valley IWW, PO Box 8562, Missoula, Montana 59807, (406) 728-6053. Thompson Falls: A. L. Nurse, Delegate, Route 5, Box 88, Thompson Falls, Montana 59874, (406) 827-2338.

NEW MEXICO: New Mexico General Membership Branch, PO Box 4872, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87196.

NEW YORK: Buffalo: Henry Pfaff, Delegate, 77 Eckhart, Buffalo, New York 14207, (816) 877-6073. New York City General Membership Branch, PO Box 183, New York 10028. Rego Park: Jackie Painish, Delegate, 99-12 56th Road (5-J), Rego Park, New York 11374, (212) 868-1121.

OHIO: Dayton IWW Group: "Reuben" Slaton, Delegate, PO Box 26381, Dayton, Ohio 45426.

ONTARIO: Brian Burch, Delegate, 257B Carlton Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4L 2L4.

PENNSYLVANIA: Tom Hill, Delegate, PO Box 41928, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Harbinger Publications, IU 450 Job Shop, 18 Bluff Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, (803) 254-9398.

TEXAS: Austin: Andrew Lee, Delegate, 3402 Enfield (B), Austin, Texas 78703, (512) 472-7854. Houston: Gilbert Mers, Delegate, 7031 Kernel, Houston, Texas 77087, (713) 921-0877.

WASHINGTON: Bellingham General Membership Branch, PO Box 1386, Bellingham, Washington 98227. Orchard Workers Organizing Project, Box 2223, Chelan, Washington 98816. Seattle General Membership Branch, 3238 33rd Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98144. Tacoma/Olympia General Membership Branch, 2115 South Sheridan, Tacoma, Washington 98405, (206) 272-8119. Walla Walla IWW, PO Box 392, Walla Walla, Washington 99862, (509) 525-0066.

WISCONSIN: Madison General Membership Branch, c/o 514 South Baldwin, Madison, Wisconsin 53703.

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Wars & Rumors of Wars

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST MARSHAL

TO: ALL NEGRITOS RESIDING
ON NAVAL RESERVATION

Be it known that the office of the Provost Marshal has noticed many Negritos walking, talking, and just being seen in public places and round the golf course area.

Also, let this serve as a notice that Negritos are to live in the jungle area and are not to be seen by the public walking on the roads or in the golf course area.

If voluntary action by the Negritos is not taken to hide themselves in the jungle, the OPM will be required to enforce stricter measures.

C. F. Smith, GYSFT, USMC
OPM Operations Chief

The circular reprinted above does not date from the turn of the century, when the US first took over the Subic Bay Naval Base in the Philippines. It was issued January 11th, 1983.

The impact of the growing US military bases on the Negrito people, who are probably the earliest inhabitants of the Philippines, has been profoundly disruptive. Although they can still hunt and fish along the base perimeters, loss of land forces many to try to earn a living collecting garbage and scrap for resale off-base, or working as security guards or jungle-survival instructors.

(from *Survival International News*, Number 3)

NOTICE? DID YOU NOTICE? DID YOU

SOLIDARITY ACTIVIST KILLED: Polish sources reported that one of Solidarity's underground activists, Stanislaw Chac, died in a Lublin hospital after being attacked and beaten October 19th, the night pro-Solidarity priest Jerzy Popieluszko was killed. Three Government security agents have been arrested in connection with Popieluszko's killing.

POOR-MOUTHING: What with all the whining bosses do about how they are being taxed to death, Congressional studies released in early December show that the average income rate for large corporations in 1983 was 16.7%, well below the nominal corporate tax rate of 46%. In fact the study found that no industry paid an effective rate of more than 36%. The soap and cosmetics industries paid the highest rate, while the chemical and paper/wood products paid no taxes at all, receiving a refund. Taxes fell from 16.4% in 1980 to 14.0% in 1983 for the aerospace industry, from 35.6% to 25.9% for the food-processing industry, from 24.5% to 7.4% for the electronics/appliance industry, from 39.2% to 27.2% for the pharmaceutical industry, and from 31.1% to 21.3% for the petroleum industry.

DOG'S LIFE: When Eleanor Ritchey, an oil-company heiress, died in 1968, she left all her money (\$4.3 million) to 150 homeless dogs she'd adopted over the years. The dogs lived in style on a 180-acre ranch in Deerfield Beach, Florida. If Professor Scott Nearing, formerly of the University of Pennsylvania, was right in his calculation that it takes the labor of 15,000 workers to produce one millionaire, then 64,500 workers lost the "surplus value" they had produced to support the dogs. (On the recent death of the last dog, the estate, which had grown to nearly \$12 million, was turned over to the Auburn University School of Veterinary Medicine.)

NUCLEAR POWER COSTS SOAR: A third of all households in the US—more than 35 million families—can expect to pay higher electric bills to help utilities cover the soaring costs of nuclear plants, the Environmental Action Foundation predicts. In a study of how much nuclear power will cost consumers, the Founda-

Boycott Coca-Cola

An international boycott of Coca-Cola has been called following the company's refusal to honor an agreement with workers at its Guatemala City bottling plant last May (see our August 1984 and February 1985 issues). The company has been refusing to meet with the bottling workers' union (STEGAC), and disclaims responsibility for the situation in a letter to the IWW dated December 27th.

The workers are demanding re-opening of the plant on the basis of the May 27th agreement, and payment of salaries and benefits from the date the plant was closed, in accordance with a July court decision declaring the plant closing illegal.

An earlier boycott campaign forced Coca-Cola to reach the May 27th agreement. In 1980 the company was forced to step in to guarantee the rights of workers to organize their union and bargain with Coke's Guatemalan subsidiary, after the then-franchiser launched a wave of terrorism against STEGAC officials. Once again, 350 fellow workers in Guatemala City are fighting for their jobs, their union, and their lives. By building the Coke boycott, we can help them win.

Letters expressing your support for the boycott campaign should be sent to the Coca-Cola Company (PO Drawer 1734, Atlanta, Georgia 30301). Further information and sample boycott leaflets are available from the IWW (send SASE).

THE USS HONDURAS

The lowest priority for US policy toward Honduras is Honduras. The Reagan Administration's policies have made this weak but strategically-placed nation sort of a land-locked aircraft carrier, a springboard for counter-revolution and US military intervention in Central America. Honduras has been recruited into the US effort to intimidate and destabilize Nicaragua. Filling that role requires the training of Salvadoran and possibly other nations' military forces in Honduras; providing cover and a logistical base for the contras' not-so-covert war against Nicaragua; building up military capability to support these operations; hosting joint maneuvers with the US, which neatly bypass Congressional approval for military aid in the region by accepting large amounts of military hardware and supplies the US simply never withdraws; and providing training bases and starting points for US land, sea, and airborne missions to intimidate Nicaragua and Salvadoran guerrillas.

Because of the continued stalemate in the Salvadoran guerrillas' conflict with the Government, Honduras has increasingly been drafted into support of the counter-insurgency forces there too. This involves ongoing Honduran co-operation with the Salvadoran Army to seal the border and contain refugees. The Reagan policies have brought Honduras attacks on its territory, pillage by the CIA-based contras, marginalization of civilian leadership, increased internal repression and human-rights abuses, and severe economic deterioration. Honduras is suffering all this from US militarism, and "we" aren't even at war with them: case for withdrawal.

tion concluded that each new plant will raise rates an average of 22% over 1983 levels in its first year of operation.

UNFAIR TO BIG BUSINESS: Two weeks after the Union Carbide Corporation's negligence killed 2500 Indians in Bhopal, the United Nations voted 147 to 1 to continue publishing a directory of 500 hazardous products. The United States dissented, on the ground that the listing "could unfairly discriminate against the export and sale of products of certain companies".

MURPHY'S LAW STRIKES CHICAGO: When the Lake Development Corporation contracted to remove a building in downtown Chicago, they figured the easiest way to move eight 3500-pound air conditioners to the top of the 12-story building was by helicopter. They also figured the job would take no more than an hour. After 20 minutes, however, flames began shooting out of the helicopter's first engine, and the pilot quickly landed the twin-engine helicopter in an empty parking lot. When the workers on top of the building saw the flames, they rushed into an elevator to get to the ground to provide assistance. When they got to the first floor, the elevator doors failed to open. The Chicago Fire Department eventually released the trapped workers.

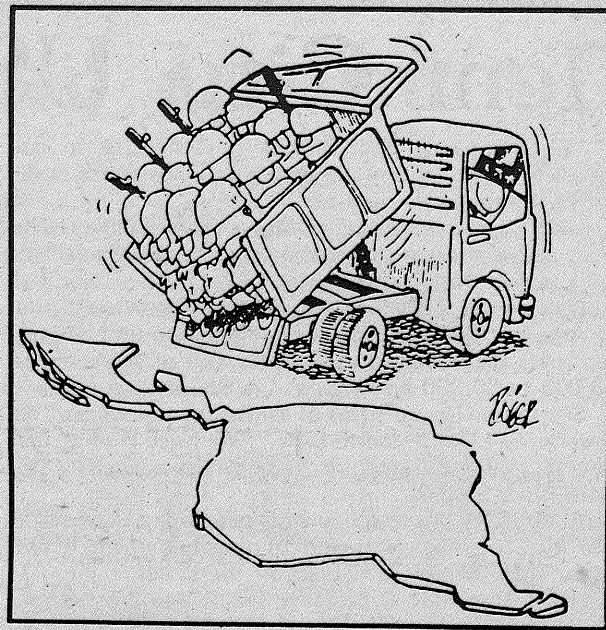
THE WAY THE BOSS PRESS TELLS IT, repression in Poland and injustice in the Soviet Union tell us something about their societies, while corruption in Bonn, Germany and Washington tells us something about fallible humanity.

FED AND UNFED: the international balance: Although the five-and-a-half-year drought that has devastated Northeastern Brazil is now ending, about a thousand children die there each day of starvation. In 1984, however, Brazil exported 600,000 tons of beef. Meanwhile, Ethiopia continues to export its coffee crop to developed countries around the world. The International Monetary Fund, international banks and lending agencies, and private banks which offered huge and seemingly lucrative loans to Third World countries in the '70s now demand payment of at least the interest before further loans, refinancing, or rescheduling of present debts will be considered. These conditions almost always require the debtor nations to increase exports of items which are in demand in the creditor nations and to impose austerity measures on their own people in order to curtail imports and domestic government spending. Hence the grotesque phenomenon of food exports from nations whose people are starving to nations whose people are well-fed.

IT FIGURES: At a recent discussion about press coverage of Central America sponsored by the Media Forum in New York City, panelist George Melloan of the *Wall Street Journal* declared: "I don't have the foggiest idea what Marxism-Leninism is." It was an interesting admission from a senior editorial writer for a paper whose editorials routinely apply the phrase to the Sandinistas and the Salvadoran guerrillas.

FREEDOM TO FREEZE: The January meeting of the US Conference of Mayors reported increased demands for emergency food and housing in 70% of the cities represented, and on the average a third of the demand for emergency services was not being met. Mayor Milner of Hartford, Connecticut asked Harvey Vieth, chairperson of the Federal Task Force on the Homeless, why the Administration could not re-route some money from military spending to provide aid for the disadvantaged. Quoth Vieth, the best thing for the homeless was for the US to continue "to have our freedom".

POPE LABELS MARXIST IDEAS "DANGEROUS": In his New Year's Day speech, Pope John Paul II told leaders of the Catholic Church they must defend the



TERRORISM, RETAIL AND WHOLESALE: According to B. Michael, writing in *Ha'aretz* in July 1982, a total of 282 Israelis were killed by the PLO or as a consequence of PLO actions between 1967 and 1982. During that time the rest of Palestine was occupied; 200,000 Palestinians expelled and Jerusalem annexed; thousands of Palestinian houses blown up on the West Bank and Gaza Strip; and according to Meron BenVeniste, about 50% of the Palestinian land in these areas expropriated. Israeli bombing in Lebanon between 1967 and 1982 (before the invasion) killed some 30,000 Palestinians and Lebanese and displaced some 300,000 more.

THE PRIVILEGED: To say that France was paralyzed by the strike of civil servants in October would be to exaggerate. Although planes were grounded, train service impaired, and mail deliveries slowed to a trickle, the one-day action, called to dramatize demands for pay raises equal to inflation, was hardly a success. In part this was due to the reluctance of civil servants, who had voted massively for Mitterand, to strike against "their" government. Also, because of the high rate of unemployment, the *fonctionnaires* feel somewhat guilty about what the general public considers their "pampered" status. When speaking of the privileged, the French press seldom refers to Marcel Dassault, the aircraft tycoon whose declared income is more than a thousand times the French minimum wage. Instead it alludes to the mail carriers, who earn just above the minimum. In the present climate of opinion, journalists find it more advantageous to their careers to write that teachers or nurses should be grateful for their "privileged status" and accept a cut in real wages than to condemn a society that breeds mass unemployment.

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poor from the "illusory and dangerous ideological proposals" of liberation theology. Liberation theology was born in the slums of Latin America, and its advocates seek to mobilize the poor politically, sometimes defining their mission in Marxist terms. The address reinforced a series of statements from the Vatican warning of the dangers of linking religion with Marxist precepts, such as the struggle between economic classes.

In a recently-released document, "Reconciliation and Penance", Pope John expressed hope that a "healthy sense of sin", formerly undermined by growing secularism, will once again flourish, and warned that sin is always a personal act, not the act of a group or community. This is disputed by liberation-theology advocates such as Father Gaspar Garcia Laviana, who joined the Sandinistas in the war against Somoza, and shortly before his death wrote an open letter stating that "The Somoza system is a sin, and to free ourselves from oppression is to free ourselves from sin."

THE POT AND THE KETTLE: When Russian Politburo member Gorbachev visited England this winter, members of Parliament took the occasion to ask him about the political and religious detainees in the Soviet Union. Gorbachev told the Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee "a few facts about human rights in the United Kingdom: You persecute entire communities, nationalities. You have 2.3 million unemployed." By the term "entire communities" he was referring to the persecution of Catholic nationalists in the Six Counties of Northern Ireland; the fact that anyone with an Irish name or accent anywhere in Britain is subject to a week's arrest under the Prevention of Terrorism Act; and the recent rise in British unemployment to over two million. But Gorbachev might have looked much more impressive as a champion of Britain's oppressed if he hadn't used a Rolls Royce to drive around London.